



# INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING IN INDIAN NEWSPAPERS: STUDY OF SELECTED LANDMARK INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS

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## 1. INTRODUCTION:

The meaning of investigative journalism is complex (Houston, 2010). These names have various definitions, which reflect numerous conceptions. Among laymen, the term investigative journalism invokes an image of crime reporting. For some, any news is investigative because it requires research before the reporter can write the news.

However, daily news and investigative news have differences, especially in terms of their depth, issues covered, focus, and even the information-gathering techniques. Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE), defined investigative journalism as "systematic, in-depth, and original research and reporting, often involving the unearthing of secrets, heavy use of public records, and computer-assisted reporting, with attention on social justice and accountability" (Investigative Reporters & Editors, 1983). This definition classifies standards for investigative reports in terms of specific criteria, the method of doing this reporting, and therefore the focus that distinguishes this journalism from the others. Scholars like Anderson and Benjaminson (1976), Greene (1981), Ullman and Honeyman (1983), Gaines (1998), Feldstein (2006), and Houston (2010) subscribed to the present definition. Most scholars who subscribe to this conception stressed the importance of the reporter's initiative to find issues and doing the investigation on their own, not reporting of investigations made by authorities. However, there are scholars like Waisbord (2000) who contended that the American model of investigative journalism is extremely influential but it's not the sole possible paradigm. He asserted that the meaning of investigative journalism varies consistently with dissimilar press traditions and conditions for journalistic practice during a country.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Journalism exists the profession, cunning, process, and punishment that deal with the group of current news and facts, production, and distribution. Journalism cares for to make human beings aware of new occurrence with that they happen not aware.

American Press Institute (fashionable its official group of connected web pages) give description journalism as 'the enterprise of assemblage, assessing, develop in mind or physically and presenting information and news. There are differing types of journalism to a degree support for an idea or cause, development, trade, broadcast, curious, tabloid journalism, pain journalism, etc.

Investigative reporting happens the most pleasing, dispute and serious type of reporting; in what way matters of public attention and goodwill exist intensely examined. Some of the major issues below Investigative Journalism involve corruption, having to do with money often from employer, big scale homicide/mass extermination, offense against the law, corporate misconduct, etc. It plays important function in representative order; and keeps close vigil ahead of all three main estates: Executive, Legislative and Judicial physique (Walter Robinson, 2016). Various scholars and research worker bear likely varying definitions of Investigative reporting; establish the local practices, issues covered, allowable matters, average and principles, belief method, joint standards and restraint/ concession. Very few researches give the impression to have exist approved concerning investigative reporting and allure various element to consider, range, purposes, impacts and significances. Some of the research worker who examine about curious journalism exist Sheila Coronel (2011, 2013, vague period), Diana Carolina Ortiz Herrera (2014), Marina Svensson (2012), Amanda Gearing (2016), Giuseppe Valiante (2013), James Aucoin (2005), Hugo de Burgh (2008), James Curry (2010, 2011), Wendy Bacon (2011), Noam Chomsky et al (2002), Christian Kolmar (2008), Robert Waterman, John Nichols and others (2010), Leonard M. Kantumoya (2004), Tania Moilanen (2014), etc.

## 3. METHODOLOGY:

Since the study's problem needs an element inquiry, therefore the design of the study might be exploratory. Through this layout, the researcher could get assistance to fulfill the operational factor of view for the working hypotheses. The important part of the study 'detailing of examples of investigative journalism might be examined simplest through this research layout. The content material analysis could additionally be used to research the secondary statistics. There are many media company print and electronic, claiming for investigative journal-

ism. But covering all of them is not possible in a given time; therefore, it desires a few representatives of them. The representatives might be decided on scientifically for the study. Because the available setup of media houses claiming for investigative journalism are not homogeneous. Each media homes fluctuate. Rarely do they have got comparable traits. Therefore, thru Purposive Sampling, the media houses would be decided on. Since the nature of the examination is exploratory, it's miles apparent that the desired records might be secondary. For the secondary data, the to be had text content at the net portal of selective media houses and its archive could be used.

## 4. OBJECTIVES:

- To understand the meaning of investigative journalism
- To get detailed knowledge of Cases of investigative Journalism
- To understand the way of investigative journalism through examples

## 5. LANDMARK CASES OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM:

### a. The Hindu's Bofors Expose:

The years of 1980 to 1990 saw an enormous scam present itself with the involvement of Asian country| Bharat [Asian country| Asian nation} and Sverige with the Indian National Congress taking {part in} a good part in it and therefore the Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi being one in every of the prime suspects. A \$1.4 billion deal had been signed between the Swedish weapons manufacturer Bofors and therefore the Government of India for the mercantilism field mortar guns, and provide double the number as ordered by the contract. it had been an enormous deal wherever heaps of cash were invested with, even cash deviated from different fields and comes. India had signed a contract price billions of twenty fourth March, 1986. they'd entered into a contract with AB Bofors, Swedish arms makers for purchasing over four hundred, 155mm howitzers and ammunition for the Indian Army. however suddenly the Swedish National Radio brought before of all that however concerning \$40 million had been paid to agents and middlemen as commission for making certain the success of the deal. However, this competition was clearly denied by each the parties. To avoid any kind of exposure the Rajiv Gandhi's government had conjointly passed a bill to suppress the press. In 1987, Rajiv Gandhi had denied these allegations within the Lok Sabha. However, within the same year, Sweden's National Audit Bureau had free a report light the payment of \$40 million by the Swedish company, Bofors, to Indian middlemen however still quite a little bit of the whole report wasn't disclosed because it concerned bank secrecy protocols. This report had conjointly notified that the investigations associated with this case had been below undue influence and handled consequently in the main attributable to the dearth of cooperation from Bofors company. though in August of an equivalent year the Bofors had confirmed the allegations of the payment they'd still refused to disclose data on the middlemen.

b. **Operation West End:** Launched in 2000, Tehelka has become one among India's hottest freelance week newspapers. Its editor is Tarun Tejpal. "Tehelka," a word which implies "sensation" in Hindi, succeeded in making that in March 2001 once it discharged video footage of its 1st major confidence game, "Operation city district." The videos showed many defense officers, officers, and politicians from the then-ruling coalition Indian government discussing and accepting bribes. Tehelka had 2 reporters cause as arms dealers hawking "fourth generation thermal hand-held cameras" on behalf of a British company. The president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the mainstay of the govt., was shown taking one hundred,000 Indian rupees (roughly \$2,500 in U. S. dollars). He resigned subsequent day. He was followed on a daily basis later by the Minister of Defense World Health Organization had conjointly appeared on the video- accepting double the maximum amount. many further defense ministry officers and officers were suspended later.

### c. Scam 1992:

**At its core, what was the Securities Scam 1992 about?**

Stockbrokers needed to borrow funds to deploy within the market. rigorous

tally laws restricted them from borrowing from banks, the most affordable supply of funds.

Brokers found a workaround engineered on mercantilism in government securities, colluding with banks, circumventing tally rules, obtaining their hands on bank funds and entertaining it to the securities market. Brokers and banks got facilitate from public sector undertakings (PSUs), that were searching for avenues to deploy their temporary surpluses. In violation of rules, PSUs started taking positions within the stock market through the portfolio management services (PMS) schemes pass banks. This wall of cash fuelled huge speculation in stocks between Apr 1991 and will 1992, and caused a close to fourfold jump within the bovine spongiform encephalitis Sensex.

#### d. Indian Express's Human Trafficking Expose:

The name Ashwini organophosphate nerve agent isn't terribly renowned, however within the world of media, he's called the person United Nations agency showed however inquiring journalism will any the explanation for democracy. His sharp and penetrating inquiring articles exposed the birth control atrocities throughout the Emergency, the multi-crore defence vehicle disposal racket and also the torture of Tihar Jail inmates.

However, the Indian categorical newsman is best familiar for his incisive report on human trafficking that created a full discourse around flesh trade, contentious because it could are. In 1981, he exposed the sordid racket by breaking the law himself (when he bought a social group lady named Kamala) and show however simple it had been to shop for humans in India. His work additionally impressed the picture show and play named 'Kamala'. Hence The Tribune poor the story of how Aadhaar details of over one billion Indians will be bought by gaining admin access for as low cost as Rs five hundred, the distinctive Identification Authority of Asian nation followed it up with Associate in Nursing FIR against the communicator of Chandigarh-based English daily for exposing the large security threat.

#### e. Open Magazine's Nira Radia Tapes:

In the history of swindles in India, the Niira Radia videotapes will be remembered as an occasion that did n't just beget embarrassment to the also ruling coalition, the UPA, but also cast a shadow on journalistic ethics, especially when inspiring information is the only concern, with no study given to the means of doing the same.

Recorded between 2007-2009, these videotapes included around exchanges between lobbyist- cum-entrepreneur Niira Radia and her guests – that included top- notch businessmen and politicians – as well as gossip with elderly intelligencers who also sounded to be a conduit of information in the chain of events. Probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in relation to the 2G fiddle, these videotapes rocked the corridors of power with the reiterations revealing a cosy nexus between policymakers/ ministers, commercial helmsmen, mediators and scribes.

According to Manu Joseph, former editor-in- chief of Open magazine, that first published the videotapes, 'The Radia Videotapes raised numerous questions, it showed us how prompting is done, how this country is run, how effects work'.

### 6. CONCLUSION:

This research demonstrates numerous key characteristics of investigative journalism's transformation into a functioning node in the network society. The emergence of decentralized networks that enable universal participation, linkages via social media, and quick and broad information gathering are all hallmarks of the network society. In this case study, the original news source, Eli Ward, used simple keyword Google searches to identify a related piece written by a writer from around the world, and 57 was able to contact the reporter.

Even though the searcher had no victim name as a starting point, another victim of the same criminal was identified in Australia, a process that would have been extremely time-consuming, prohibitively expensive, or impossible before the network society's inception. Despite having survived many years of suffering, isolation, and institutional denials, both Ward and Atkinson were eager to give up their anonymity and talk publicly about their experiences, as well as being photographed and videoed. Both men were pleased that their involvement with the mainstream media resulted in the discovery of additional victims, allowing their testimony to be publicly corroborated.

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